



January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It must be agreed by all that Microsoft has always maintained an attitude of arrogance with respect to its OEMs and to software developers, but this attitude should never, in my opinion, have facilitated an actual lawsuit against them by our government. Certainly, as the IT community matures, there will be enough competitive pressure brought to Microsoft to have forced them into a position of greater cooperation.

It is my belief that these kinds of issues do not fall under the purview of our government. This lawsuit has created a tremendous amount of anxiety and uncertainty within the IT community that it has been responsible, in part, for the recession that is with us even today.

This settlement, however, signals the end of the government's hostility towards Microsoft and will aid the entire IT community by dispelling the uncertainty. It will improve licensing and contractual agreements, so that they cannot be used as leverage against other companies. Moreover, the settlement will be enforced by a special Technical Committee, whose sole purpose is to watch Microsoft. I am hopeful that this review process will vindicate the settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Safecr', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Safecr

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